

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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received

date entered

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Swedish Club of Chicago

and/or common 1258 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois

## 2. Location

street & number 1258 North LaSalle Street

not for publication

city, town Chicago

vicinity of

state Illinois

code 012

county

Cook

code 031

## 3. Classification

### Category

district  
 building(s)  
 structure  
 site  
 object

### Ownership

public  
 private  
 both  
**Public Acquisition**  
*N/A* in process  
being considered

### Status

occupied  
 unoccupied  
 work in progress  
**Accessible**  
 yes: restricted  
 yes: unrestricted  
 no

### Present Use

agriculture  
 commercial  
 educational  
 entertainment  
 government  
 industrial  
 military  
 museum  
 park  
 private residence  
 religious  
 scientific  
 transportation  
 other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name East Lake Management and Development Corporation

street & number 33 East 83rd Street

city, town Chicago

vicinity of

state

Illinois 60619

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cook County Treasurer's Office

street & number County Building; 118 North LaSalle Street, Room 112

city, town Chicago

state Illinois

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> runs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	date

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Swedish Club of Chicago's facilities have been housed since about 1897 in what were originally 3 adjoining residential townhouses at 1258 North LaSalle Street in Chicago. The houses are 23, 25 and 40 feet in width, from south to north, and are nearly rectangular in plan - approximately 54 feet in the east-west dimension and approximately 88 feet south to north. One, two and three story additions to the west were added in the 1920's and 1930's by the Swedish Club.

The two nearly identical townhouses on the south are a high basement and three stories in height, constructed of common brick exterior and interior bearing and party walls, with the exterior masonry principal facades stuccoed. Both houses have angled multi-story bay windows alternating with flat facades in which are the entrances - at the first story above grade, reached by a steep exterior stairway. String courses and window hood moldings are of carved Joliet limestone. The LaSalle Street facades are topped by ornamental projecting sheet metal brackets and cornices resting on a deep firm band.

Fenestration consists of stacked, large rectangular double-hung one-over-one wood window sash with a cylindrical wood strip molding surrounding the frame. Basement windows have been removed and the openings bricked in and the front entrance doors have been removed and the openings boarded up. In general, the sash are in a deteriorated condition resulting from deferred maintenance and would probably require replacement.

Nearly flat roofs pitch slightly from the top of the cornice to the west. The south wall is the exposed common brick party wall that once separated the southernmost house from its adjoining rowhouse neighbor.

The northernmost, or corner townhouse likewise has a high basement with two full-height stories above plus a third floor with one large ballroom-like space surrounded on two sides by attic-like rooms under a sloping hipped roof. The exterior and some interior bearing walls are masonry. The exterior dark reddish face brick has been painted. Some of the original basement windows have been removed and openings bricked up, and the original entrance has been replaced. The first floor window at the corner on LaSalle Street has been altered from the original which most likely was a double window separated by a colonette as in the opening above it on the second floor. A canopy over the front stairway and sidewalk as been added.

The exterior principal facades of these three townhouses on LaSalle Street and Goethe Street are in good condition and can easily be restored to their original condition. The interior of the buildings has been largely altered from the original residential configuration to their use as a social and dining club. Some window and door trim, cove and cornice moldings, and window shutters remain.

There is one Contributing Building in this nomination.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	X architecture	education	military	X social
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
X 1800-1899	commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater
X 1900-	communications	industry	politics government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)

Specific dates 1874; 1897-1935 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The three rowhouses at the southwest corner of LaSalle and Goethe Streets in Chicago are excellent examples of the type of urban residential architecture built soon after the Chicago Fire of 1871. Of the 135 or so townhouses constructed between 1872 and the early 1900's in the 4 block stretch along LaSalle Street from Division Street to North Avenue only 14 remain. As such they provide a sense of continuity and evolution for the neighborhood. Historically, these structures, which housed the Swedish Club of Chicago for over three quarters of a century, played an important role as the center of the city's Swedish culture.

The exteriors of the rowhouses are of face brick and stuccoed common brick, with limestone trim and sheet metal cornices. Characteristic Victorian Italianate detailing includes carved architrave moldings bent around the upper portion of the rectangular window and door openings, and overscaled, bracketed cornices. The two southernmost houses have a vertical composition with alternating multi-story angled and flat bays. The corner house is more square in plan and squat, with a pyramidal hipped roof and a curved tower-form bay capped with large windows with Ionic colonettes between. Its cornice is a frieze with alternating windows and blind panels. The three together present a composition which suggests how the complete row might once have appeared.

The buildings were probably constructed around 1874 (according to the Chicago Commission on Historic and Architectural Landmarks) and were acquired by the Swedish Club in the late nineteenth century - the club first appears on the title records in 1897. Apparently a successor to another club known as the Svea, which had outgrown its Chicago Avenue location a few blocks away, the Swedish Club was in the center of the then North Side Swedish Community and was a high status institution serving this community's leaders. Prominent members included key figures in the building trades, bankers and artists. Language classes were held both to help recent immigrants to assimilate and to preserve Swedish culture. National shows of Swedish Art and Crafts were held here and it was also the home of the Swedish Glee Club.

The history of the organization which is now known as the Swedish Club of Chicago dates back to 1870 at which time Foreningen Freja was formed. In 1882 this name was changed to Svenska Clubben, re-named again in 1886 to Svenska Sangsallskapet, in 1889, re-named once again to Svenska Sangallskapet Freja.

On December 13, 1889, the Swedish Glee Club was organized and later incorporated on May 13, 1891. The Club became the foremost Swedish singing society in America. They performed at sangerfest of Scandinavian Singers of America held in Minneapolis, the World's Fair of Chicago, and Carnegie Hall. During their performance at the Columbian Exposition music festival in 1893, they sang repeatedly to audiences of more than ten thousand people. One of the greatest triumphs for these singers was scored during their performance at Carnegie Hall-the Swedish Glee Club, after having sung the selection on the program, were compelled by the plaudits of the assemblage to sing five additional selections in succession and they declined to continue to perform despite

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the overwhelming prompting of the audience.

On April 13, 1896 the Swedish Glee Club purchased and moved into the building at 1258 North LaSalle Street. The inadequateness of space was felt before long and after years of deliberations it was decided to enlarge the building. The addition to the building included a large concert hall and a ballroom. Upon the completion of improvements in 1919, the name was changed to Svenska Klubben. In 1923, the name was again changed and became the Swedish Club of Chicago and was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois. The Swedish Club grew enormously, not only within the boundaries of the State and the Union, but also in the Mother Country.

The Swedish Club motivated Swedish artists of international fame to this country. Through its efforts appearances in Chicago and elsewhere were made by such artists as Caroline Ostberg, Carl Frederik Lundquist and Conrad Behrens.

The Club's new banquet and concert hall enabled them to undertake functions not attempted before. In 1911 they arranged their first Swedish-American Art Exhibition. Public interest in the exhibitions increased and these exhibitions became the leading events in the Swedish-American art circles. The achievements of Swedish-American artists in the field of painting and sculpture gained increasing public notoriety through the exhibitions. Grateful recognition was bestowed upon the Swedish Club for promoting the interest of art. The exhibits became annual affairs and from these exhibitions several exceptional pieces of art were singled out and sent to Sweden for public display.

In the fall of 1912, an exposition of a different character was held in the hall of the Swedish Club. Having persuaded fifteen of the leading industrial art firms in Sweden to send samples of the finest work to Chicago for display, the exposition had more than 10,000 items and sales were in excess of \$10,000.00.

The Swedish Club was the first to tender the hospitality of Chicago to many notable guests including distinguished visitors from Sweden. The Club extended its hospitality and entertained such Swedish savants as Oscar Montelius, Svante Arrhenius, Commissioner Richard Bergstrom, and noted singers John Forsell, Anna Hellstrom and Julia Claussen.

The chief objectives and primary purpose of the Swedish Club during its 114 years in existence and under the various names was at all times to preserve and honor the language, old time songs and customs of the Mother Country. Another purpose was to lend assistance to Swedish men and women of prominence who came to Chicago as guests. The Club actively sought to create favorable connections for newcomers from Sweden with responsible individuals and firms in America.

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In 1925, the Swedish Club was throughly renovated and remoeled and was one of the finest and most elaborately equipped Swedish Club houses on this side of the Atlantic. Swedish-Americans contributed substantially in the rebuilding of Chicago after the Great Fire. An article which appeared in a 1948 edition of the Chicago Daily News stated that 75% of the construction which occurred thereafter was done by Swedish-Americans.

A Swedish engineer devised a system which reversed the flow of the Chicago River using a series of locks and a canal which channels the river flow into the Mississippi River. This solved a major sanitary concern as the Chicago River originally flowed directly into Lake Michigan, a primary source of water supply.

One of Chicago's finest parks and most popular sources of enjoyment is Lincoln Park which was designed by a Swedish-American architect.

In addition to the many contributions made by the Swedish-Americans in Chicago, the founders of such major corporations as Walgreen Drug Stores (founded by Charles Walgreen), Greyhound Bus Lines (founded by Eric Wickman) and Zerox Corporation (founded by Mr. Bendex) were Swedish-Americans.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois, Architectural and Historical Building Data  
Sheet, 3/84

Interviews: Nancy Kahlich, Swedish American Historical Society, Chicago, November 6, 1984,  
March 21, 1985

"History of Swedes of Illinois", 1908; "The Swedish Element in Illinois", 1917; "The Swedish Blue  
Book", 1927, 1928

## 10. Geographical Data

Area of nominated property 39,402.8 sq./ft. or 0.9045 acres

Quadrangle name Chicago Loop

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	4	4	7	4	8	0	4	5	3	9	2	6	1	0
Zone				Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

C 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

A rectangle, starting at the southwest corner of LaSalle Street and Goethe Street, in Chicago: south along LaSalle Street 265.95', then west 146.62', then north 132.96', then west 2.81', then north 132.96', then east 149.70', to the point of origin

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Lisec

organization Lisec & Biederman, Ltd., Architects

date April 15, 1985

street & number 407 South Dearborn, Suite 505

telephone 312/663-5430

city or town Chicago

state Illinois 60605

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

DEC 13 1985

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places beginning December 1, 1985 and ending December 7, 1985. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (Date Listed)

ALASKA, Anchorage Division, Anchorage, Potter Section House, Off AK 1 (12/06/85)

ARIZONA, Cochise County, Douglas, Douglas Post Office and Customs House (Historic U.S. Post Offices in Arizona TR 1900-1941), 601 - 10th St. (12/03/85)

ARIZONA, Gila County, Globe, Globe Post Office Courthouse (Historic U.S. Post Offices in Arizona TR 1900-1941), Hill and Sycamore Sts. (12/03/85)

ARIZONA, Santa Cruz County, Nogales, Nogales Main Post Office and Immigration Station (Historic U.S. Post Offices in Arizona TR 1900-1941), Hudgin St. and Morley Ave. (12/03/85)

ARIZONA, Yavapai County, Prescott, Prescott Post Office and Courthouse (Historic U.S. Post Offices in Arizona TR 1900-1941), 101 W. Goodwin Ave. (12/03/85)

ARIZONA, Yuma County, Yuma, Yuma Main Post Office (Historic U.S. Post Offices in Arizona TR 1900-1941), 370 W. Third St. (12/03/85)

ARKANSAS, Montgomery County, Bonnerdale, Reeves-Melson House, SE of Montgomery adjacent to branch off Mazarn Creek (12/05/85)

ARKANSAS, Searcy County, St. Joe vicinity, Henley, Benjamin Franklin, House, Off US 85 (12/05/85)

COLORADO, Denver County, Denver, Spratlen-Anderson Wholesale Grocery Company--Davis Brothers Warehouse, 1450 Wynkoop St. (12/03/85)

COLORADO, Pueblo County, Pueblo, Woodcroft Sanatorium, 1300 W. Abriendo Ave. (12/03/85)

FLORIDA, Dade County, Homestead, Homestead Public School--Neva King Cooper School, 520 NW First St. (12/04/85)

FLORIDA, Dade County, Miami Shores, Grand Concourse Apartments, 421 Grand Concourse (12/02/85)

GEORGIA, Banks County, Homer, Homer Historic District, Along Main St. (US 441) and Silver Shoals Rd. (12/03/85)

GEORGIA, Cobb County, Marietta, Church Street--Cherokee Street Historic District, Church, Cherokee, & Campbell Hill Sts. (12/03/85)

ILLINOIS, Christian County, Taylorville, Taylorville Courthouse Square Historic District, Roughly bounded by Vine, Walnut, Adams, and Webster Sts. (12/02/85)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Swedish Club of Chicago, T258 N. LaSalle St. (12/02/85)

KENTUCKY, Fayette County, Guilfoil Village Site (15FA176) (12/05/85)

KENTUCKY, Fulton County, Running Slough Site (15FU67) (12/05/85)

KENTUCKY, Logan County, Watkins Site (15 Lo12) (12/05/85)

KENTUCKY, Mason County, Van Meter Site (15MS52) (12/05/85)

KENTUCKY, Oldham County, Pewee Valley vicinity, St. James' Episcopal Church, 401 Old LaGrange Rd. (12/05/85)

KENTUCKY, Scott County, Dry Run Site (15SC10) (12/05/85)